

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

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R 312055 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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STADIS//////////

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, ETRD, KS, US

SUBJECT: KOREAN STEEL EXPORTS TO US

REF: A. SEOUL 2319

B. SEOUL 3024

1. REF A REPORTED THAT VICEMIN LEE OF ECON PLANNING BOARD INFORMED EMBASSY IN MID- APRIL THAT AS RESULT OF RECENT MARKED RISE IN KOREAN DOMESTIC DEMAND ALL STEEL EXPORTS HAD BEEN STOPPED TEMPORARILY AND THAT EXPECTATIONS WERE THAT STEEL EXPORTS FOR NEAR FUTURE WOULD BE LIMITED AND MIGHT DECLINE.

2. DEPT NOTES IN PARA FOUR REF B THAT SOME KOREAN EXPORTS, E. G., STEEL BARS, HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO MEET DOMESTIC NEEDS.

3. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER DETAILS OF KOREAN RESTRICTIONS ON STEEL EXPORTS. E- G., ARE REPORTED RESTRICTIONS FORMAL OR INFORMAL ONES; IS THERE TOTAL OR PARTIAL EMBARGO

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ON ALL OR CERTAIN TYPES OF STEEL EXPORTS; HOW LONG ARE RESTRICTIONS EXPECTED TO LAST, ETC.?

4. AS OF MARCH 1973, KOREAN EXPORT RESTRICTIONS NOT REFLECTED IN US IMPORT DATA, WHICH SHOW STEEL IMPORTS TOTALING 185,000 NET TONS FROM KOREA DURING FIRST THREE MONTHS CY 1973. (EXPORTS TO US WEST COAST DURING THIS PERIOD

WERE 35.6 PERCENT, VS. 47.5 PERCENT IN CY 1972.) MONTHLY AVERAGE FOR FIRST QUARTER 1973 WAS 62,000 TONS, COMPARED TO 56,000 TON MONTHLY AVERAGE DURING LAST FOUR MONTHS CY 1972, WHEN KOREAN STEEL EXPORTS TO US INCREASED SHARPLY. (DEPT REALIZES THAT MOST, IF NOT ALL, KOREAN STEEL IMPORTED DURING FIRST QUARTER 1973 PROBABLY SHIPPED PRIOR TO IMPOSITION OF REPORTED EXPORT RESTRICTIONS.)

5. FYI. DEPT RECENTLY RECEIVED LETTER FROM MAYOR OF SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO, COMPLAINING OF " RECENT ACTION ADOPTED BY ROKG IN RESTRICTING EXPORTATION AND DELIVERY OF STEEL ORDERS ALREADY ACCEPTED AND DESTINED FOR SAN JUAN." DEPT REQUESTED MAYOR PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS PRIOR TO REFERRING MATTER TO EMBASSY SEOUL. IT POSSIBLE THAT ROKG ACTIONS OF WHICH MAYOR COMPLAINING SAME AS THOSE REPORTED REFTELS. END FYI.

6. DEPT WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE DETAILED REPORT ON EXPORT COMMODITIES OTHER THAN STEEL COVERED BY LIMITATIONS REPORTED PARA FOUR REF B. SUCH REPORT SHOULD BE BY SEPTEL, WITHOUT " STADIS" SLUG, AND WITHOUT ANY REFERENCE TO THIS TEL OR TO STEEL REPORT. RUSH

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** STADIS

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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